



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 10, 2008

**FORMER ODESSA PRISON GUARD CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING
MARIJUANA AND CELL PHONE TO INMATE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Andrew Allen Zehr, a former correctional officer at the Ector County Correctional Center, was arrested without incident late yesterday afternoon on a federal bribery charge.

The charge, contained in a criminal complaint, alleges that on or about October 29, 2008, Zehr supplied an inmate with a total of three bags of marijuana and a cellular telephone in exchange for approximately \$450.

Upon conviction, Zehr faces up to 15 years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

Zehr, who remains in custody, is scheduled to have his initial appearance at 2:45pm today before United States Magistrate Judge L. Stuart Platt in Midland.

This case was investigated by agents with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Marshals Service. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government..

A criminal complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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